

# NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT

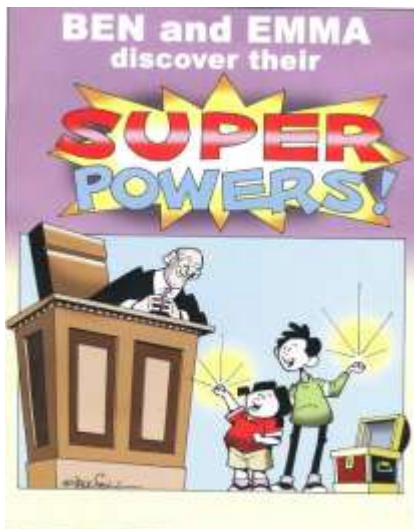


## *Office of Public Information*

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## Nebraska Children Assisted in Adjusting to Court Setting



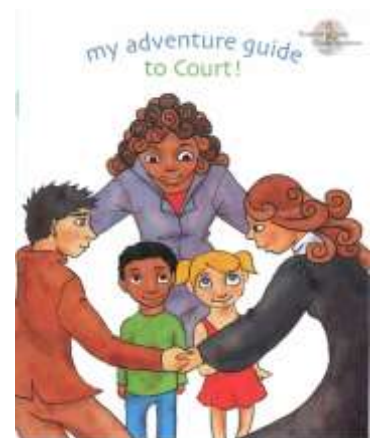
When children attend court hearings, they can be confused or anxious about what is happening. To provide a measure of comfort, Nebraska judges are giving children booklets to help explain the court process.

"The booklets create an opportunity for children to enjoy a familiar activity and relieve some of the stress a child may feel coming to court," said Carlton Clark, County Court Judge of the 11th Judicial District.

A comic book illustrated by Nebraska award-winning artist Paul Fell titled "Ben and Emma discover their Super Powers" is intended for children up to age 12. The message of the story is that each child has a voice in the

court system and that their voice gives them their own 'super power.' Children are encouraged to talk to their lawyer and with the judge about their needs and concerns.

"My Adventure Guide to Court" is a coloring book designed for children up to age 8. The drawings, created by UNL students, leave room for children to express their emotions and record contact information. Children needing assistance with reading will be helped by their lawyer or caseworker. Each booklet is distributed with a set of crayons.



The coloring book and comic book were developed by the Nebraska Supreme Court's Court Improvement Project and Through the Eyes of the Child Initiative. The Through the Eyes of the Child Initiative consists of multidisciplinary teams dedicated to improving the outcomes of children in the Nebraska child welfare system. The organization has, for the past several years, been a major part of the Supreme Court's efforts to improve court processing in abuse and neglect cases.

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